

The Giver

November 30, 2014

Season of Giving • Message 1

HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER LIFE IN CHRIST • PRAY

Season of Giving

I'M NOT A GIVER • ACTS 20:35 • I HAVE KNOWN GIVERS (CHARLIE, ESTHER)

... we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35 NIV

PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE LEAST ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO GIVE.

Secrets of Poverty

- ❖ Next-to-nothing is actually **ENOUGH**.
- ❖ Everything is a **GIFT**, not an **ACQUISITION**.

PROS AND CONS OF POOR AND RICH MENTALITIES

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3 NIV

The Big Danger of Christmas

Christmas has the danger of making us think
that **STUFF** is **IMPORTANT**.

THE PROBLEM WITH CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE • WE DO IT FOR RELATIONSHIP

What We are Doing About It

- ❖ Christmas for Everyone
- ❖ Kidopolis: The Giving Mall
- ❖ Christmas Generosity Project: Church Launching, Building Fund, Matrix
- ❖ The Gift Card Explosion: Look on the walls!
- ❖ Sunday Messages

Our December Goals

- ❖ To become aware of our true **POVERTY** and dependence on God.
- ❖ To develop an understanding of God's **KEY GIFTS**.
- ❖ To encourage **GIVING** as a new way of **LIVING**.

TODAY, I SIMPLY WANT TO FOCUS ON THIS ONE FACT THAT GOD IS A GIVER.

The Giver

Truth #1: If not for God, we would have **NOTHING**.

James 1:16-17 (p. 847)

DON'T BE DECEIVED • EVERYTHING GOOD • HE'S RELIABLE

ILL: RELIABLE GUMBALL MACHINE // GOD GIVES FIRST

James 1:18

NO INFANT PAYS FOR HIS BIRTH • HOW DID YOU HEAR THE WORD OF TRUTH?
YOUR BIRTH CAME BY GOD THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF MANY OTHERS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (p. 138)

IMAGINE ALL THE WORK THEY HAD TO DO FOR THEIR HARVEST
BIGGER PERSPECTIVE • GOD GIVES EVEN WHAT WE HAVE WORKED FOR

Truth #2: If not for God through us,
some people have **NOTHING**.

James 1:27 (p. 847)

ILL: BRIAN SCHOOLCRAFT AND THE MHA

WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO REWORK OUR BUDGET NEXT YEAR FOR THAT!

Truth #3: God is able and eager
to **GIVE** through **GIVERS**.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (p. 807)

CONTEXT OF THE GIFT TO JERUSALEM

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER • WHAT HAPPENS IF HE FINDS ONE!?

PROMISE OF BLESSING FOR THE PURPOSE OF MORE GIVING

Take it Home

Everything good in my life is
a **GIFT** from **GOD** to make
ME into a **GIVER** too.

CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE?

KIDOPOLIS? • GENEROSITY PROJECT?

GIFT CARD EXPLOSION?

SUNDAY MORNINGS